(e) No registration or licence is necessary for running courier service from the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications.

Settling the cases of postal employees

643. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cases relating to the expunction of CR entries and promotion of 117 employees of the office of Postmaster General, Delhi Circle have not so far been decided due to the adamant attitude of a particular officer in spite of reminders from the working staff and the Director General's office instruction and Court directions in this regard;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and by when a final decision is likely to be taken and implemented;

(c) whether Government propose to punish the officer responsible for the delay in settling the cases of the concerned employees; and

(d) if so, how and when?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) There are no Court directions in favour of 117 employees working in Delhi Circle. It is not correct that promotions have not been decided due to the adamant attitude of any particular officer.

Their cases for promotion is under review in accordance with Government Instructions on the Subject;

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

Compensation to the Bhopal gas tragedy victims

644. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has since been drawn to the judgement of Madhya Pradesh High Court regarding the payment of interim compensation to the Bhopal gas tragedy victims;

(b) if so, what follow-up steps have since been taken in this regard; and

(c) how much amount and for what purpose has so far been spent for the rehabilitation and welfare of these victims and how much more is planned to be spent for the same?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Union Carbide Corporation has been directed to deposit a sum of Rs. 250 crores as interim compensation in the trial court within a period of two months time from the date of the order of the High Court (4th April, 1988). The Commisioner of Welfare of Victims appointed under the Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster (Processing of Claims) Act, 1985 is to complete the work of registration of claims in respect of death and personal injury cases within a period of four months from the date of deposit of the aforesaid amount. Steps have been initiated for completion of the work of scrutiny and categorisation expeditiously so that the amount can be disbursed promptly in accordance with the directions of the High Court.

(c) As reported by the Government of Madhya Pradesh, the expenditure it has incurred on various schemes of relief and rehabilitation

of gas victims till 31-3-1988 is as follows:

S.No.	Item	Amount (Rs. in crores)
1	Relief	36.19
2	Medical Rehabilitation	
	(i) Facilities	11.14
	(ii) Construction	2.89
3	Economic Rehabilitation	5.07
4	Social Rehabilitation	2.47
5	Environmental Improvement measures	6.91
6	Scientific Studies, Litigation, Administration and other items	3.02
7	Others	1.40
	TOTAL:	69.09

However, this does not take into account the total involvement of the administration, both Central and State, particularly in the acute phase of the disaster. If these are taken into account, the total amount would be several times more.

A long-term Action Plan for the relief and rehabilitation of the victim is also being finalised.

Theft of Power in Lawrence Road Area

645. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been theft of power on a very large scale in the capital particularly in the Lawrence Road Zone by the owners of the Plastic/Steel Industry unit during night;

(b) whether there is any proposal to record daily reading of power meters installed at the factories;

(c) whether Government also propose to fix working hours for the plastic/steel factories to use power only during the day time to avoid theft of power during the night;

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government would investigate the theft of power committed by the plastic/steel industries owners with the connivance of the DESU staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.